C o n f i d e n t i a l

Not for publication

Executive Committee

December 1961

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

December 7, 1961

Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India

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December 7, 1961 - Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, India

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry was in the Chair.

Present:

Presidents:	Archbishop Iakovos	Staff:	Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft
	Dr. Martin Niemöller		Dr. R.S. Bilheimer
	Mr. Charles Parlin		Dr. L.E. Cooke
			Rev. Francis House
Members:	Dr. C.G. Baeta		Bishop L. Newbigin
	Bishop S.U. Barbieri		Mr. Frank Northam
	Dr. Eugene Carson Blake		Dr. Roswell P. Barnes
	Dr. Kathleen Bliss		Dr. Norman Goodall
	Dr. Alford Carleton		Dr. Paul Abrecht
	Dr. Ivy Chou		Dr. H.H. Wolf
	Prof. J.L. Hromadka		Rev. R. French
	Archbishop G. Hultgren		Dr. Madeleine Barot
	Archbishop Nikodim		
	Dr. Ernest A. Payne		
	Archbishop of Melbourne		

Dr. Visser 't Hooft asked for the attention of the Committee to four main items of business.

1. Dates of meetings

I. Executive Committee

After considering all available information about other events and the convenience of members, the following dates were agreed:

1962 - i) March 28 (at 2.30 pm) to March 31 (noon) in Geneva
ii) August 6 (at 9.0 am) to August 7 (evening) in Paris

1963 - A February meeting to begin either on February 11 or 18, the final choice to be made after further consultation and report to the Committee in March, 1962. Place: Archbishop Nikodim warmly invited the Committee to meet in Russia, possibly in the South. The Committee expressed its gratitude for the invitation and accepted it with appreciation.

II. Central Committee

Dates were considered in the light of the previous discussion at Central Committee, with special reference to the point at whichaneighteen months' interval might prove advisable. Tentative agreement was given to the following timetable, decisions to be made at the next meeting of the Executive after further consultation about possible places of meeting:

1963 - August 26 to September 3
1964-65 late December into early January
1966 - August
1967 - Assembly year

2. 1962 Central Committee (August 7 evening to August 17, Paris)

The Committee discussed possible plans for this meeting, including the question whether, as in some previous meetings, some major theme(s) should be featured in the agenda. Opinions expressed in the Committee indicated a strong desire to give precedence to the work of divisions and departments and the development of their work in the light of the directives provided by the Assembly. There was, however, a warm welcome for the suggestion that in the course of the Paris meeting one or two papers might be given on, for example, the proposed major study on "The finality of Chirst in the age of universal history" (as tentatively formulated). The hope was expressed that one paper would deal with this in its missionary significance. The staff was asked to give further thought to the matter and to bring proposals to the March Executive Committee, taking into account the present discussion.

3. Membership of Committees

The Committee noted the action of Central Committee on the proposals of the Nominations Committee. Some further attention was given to places remaining to be filled and to some of the proposals made by members of the Central Committee. It was AGREED:

i) that Committee members already appointed by Central Committee should be notified as soon as possible and that in the communication to member churches asking for approval it should be made clear that this consultation does not give any church the right to make an alternative nomination;

ii) that for the remaining vacancies on committees the staff should bring recommendations to the March meeting of the Executive Committee, in terms of the instructions of Central Committee and after due consultation with divisional and departmental officers.

iii) that annotated lists of the final recommendations should be sent to members of the Executive Committee prior to the meeting in March.

4. Staffing Matters

I. Dr. Carleton presented the following nominations from the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism for the staffing of the Commission and Division:

		Date of expiry of present appointment	Date to which extension of appointment is proposed
Director of Division	Bishop Lesslie Newbigin	30 June 1964	30 June 1964
Executive Director TEF	Dr. C. W. Ranson	30 June 1963	do
Geneva Secretary	-	-	-
London Secretary	Rev. R. K. Orchard	No date	do
New York Secretary	Dr. G. W. Carpenter	No date	do
Secretary for Research	Rev. Victor Hayward	No date	do
Secretary CCJP	Rev. Anker Gjerding	No date	do
Secretary Standing Committee on Ministry	Dr. Wilfred Scopes	30 June 1962	30 June 1963
Other Secretaries	Dr. Paul Löffler	30 Sept 1965	30 Sept 1965
	Rev. Gwenyth Hubble	No date	30 June 1964
Secretary for Evangelism	-	-	-
TEF Staff	Dr. James Hopewell	31 July 1963	30 June 1964
	Dr. Hans Gensichen	31 March 1964	31 Mar. 1964
	Dr. Marcus Ward (Hon. Consultant)	No date	No date
Pacific Area Secretary	Rev. Vavae Toma	30 June 1966	30 June 1966

These appointments were approved by the Executive Committee, with the following requests:

a) That further consideration should be given to the dating of the periods of these appointments, with special regard to i) the avoidance of a situation in which a number of secretarial posts might fall vacant in the same year, and ii) the relation between these periods of appointment and the general practice of the WCC.

b) that the formal relation of the secretary of the Continuation Committee of the South Pacific Conference ("Pacific Area Secretary") to the WCC be clarified, especially with reference to i) responsibility for the appointment and ii) the bearing of this on other secretaryships of regional conferences.

II. Dr. Visser 't Hooft drew attention to three new appointments sanctioned by the Assembly on the recommendation of Policy Reference Committee, namely,

i) An Associate to the Executive Secretary in the USA
ii) A secretary for the service of laymen abroad (for an experimental period of three years)
iii) A secretary ("to be appointed for a limited period") for work in the field of broadcasting

Dr. Visser 't Hooft asked that the officers might be authorized to proceed with these appointments after the necessary negotiations and consultations had been completed.

The Committee authorized the officers so to act.

III. Dr. Visser 't Hooft referred to the appointment, approved by the Assembly, of an additional Assistant General Secretary who would give particular attention to the participation of the Orthodox Churches in the life and programme of the WCC. He said that the Rev. Francis House had been asked to accept nomination to this appointment. Mr. House was not yet able to give his assent but was considering the possibility. Executive Committee warmly welcomed this nomination and desired to express to Mr. House their very strong hope that he would be able to accept.

5. The Honorary President

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reported that the Assembly's invitation to Dr. J. H. Oldham had been conveyed in writing and suggested that Dr. Kathleen Bliss should be asked to serve as the Committee's personal emissary in expressing to Dr. Oldham the good wishes and hopeful expectation of the Assembly. The Committee warmly concurred.

Dr. Fry adjourned the meeting.